

Galveston March 18th / 52

Mr Swisher  
Auditor

Sir

Your favor of the 9th inst in reply to my letter of the 1st requesting you to forward the Certificate of A. Kendall & Co has been duly received. I was never so much surprised in any business transaction in my life as I am at the turn which you have given to this affair. I am now entirely ignorant of the facts of the case. But when I was at Austin I called, by request of Mr Edmonds, on Mr Shaw & yourself in regard to the matter. I understood from Mr Shaw in your presence that the only question was as to whose name the certificate should issue in. You were then prepared, as I understood, to deliver me the certificate in the name of A. Kendall & Co, but not knowing whether Edmonds would accept it in that shape or prefer to endeavor to get further testimony to authorize the issue of the certificate in his own name I took time to write to him. So it remained. Now you tell me Edmonds had no authority to receive the guns; and that it seems to have been a private transaction on his part. Now Sir, I suggest to you again to consider whether Edmonds did not have authority to receive the guns. If he had then the circumstance that he gave A. Kendall & Co collateral security that the Government would pay them certainly could make no difference. If it were as you say it seems a private transaction of Mr Edmonds, then it would be an entirely different affair. Now whether or not it was a private transaction on Mr Edmonds part might or might not make any difference as to the right of A. Kendall & Co